

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A molecule comprising the antigen binding portion of an antibody specific for glucocorticoid receptor phosphorylated at residue Ser 211 or at residue Ser 226.
2. The molecule of claim 1, which is a polyclonal antibody.
3. The molecule of claim 1, which is a monoclonal antibody.
4. A method for determining the presence of activated glucocorticoid receptors in cells obtained from human glucocorticoid responsive tissue, comprising:
  - treating cells from glucocorticoid responsive human tissue of an individual with a glucocorticoid;
  - reacting a sample of the treated cells or a cell extract thereof with the molecule of claim 1;
  - detecting binding of the molecule of claim 1 to the treated cells or a cell extract thereof to determine the presence of activated glucocorticoid receptors in cells from glucocorticoid responsive human tissue of the individual.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said treating step comprises administering a glucocorticoid to an individual in need thereof and wherein a sample of treated cells from glucocorticoid responsive human tissue of an individual is removed from the individual before said reacting step.

6. A method of screening for a glucocorticoid agonist, comprising:

incubating human glucocorticoid responsive cells having glucocorticoid receptors in the presence or absence of a potential glucocorticoid agonist that activates glucocorticoid receptors;

reacting the incubated cells or cell extract thereof with the molecule of claim 1;

detecting the level of binding of the molecule of claim 1 to the incubated cells or cell extract thereof;

determining from the detected level of binding the level of activation of glucocorticoid responsive cells to the potential glucocorticoid agonist in the presence of the potential glucocorticoid agonist relative to the level of activation in the absence of the potential glucocorticoid agonist; and

identifying as a glucocorticoid agonist for which said determining step determines that the level of activation of glucocorticoid responsive cells in the presence of the potential glucocorticoid agonist is substantially more than that in the absence of the potential glucocorticoid agonist.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of isolating the glucocorticoid agonist identified in said identifying step.

8. A glucocorticoid agonist isolated by the method of claim 7.

9. A molecule comprising the antigen binding portion of an antibody specific for glucocorticoid receptor phosphorylated at residue Ser 203.

10. The molecule of claim 9, which is a polyclonal antibody.

11. The molecule of claim 9, which is a monoclonal antibody.